

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Office Action dated October 4, 2007.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1, 19 and 38 have been further amended to specify that the beam is *suspended across* the liquid inlet as shown in Figure 1, which corresponds to the preferred embodiment of the present invention. This amendment has been made to further clarify the scope of the present invention.

The Applicant acknowledges that the Examiner has not maintained any objections in view of Kubby, which teaches a heater element arranged perpendicular with a plane of the nozzle plate (Figure 5).

However, whereas Kubby teaches a perpendicular arrangement of heater element so as not to impede ink flow, the newly cited Manaka makes use of an ink chamber 13 with side-entrance ink supply passages 14. Like Kubby, Manaka also makes special design provisions to avoid a perceived problem with ink flow. However, Manaka's side-entrance ink chamber as shown in Figure 2 would be very difficult to manufacture by MEMS techniques.

As previously argued, the present Applicant has understood that ink flow is not compromised if heater elements are configured appropriately and suspended across the ink inlet. Neither Kubby nor Manaka teaches the Applicant's arrangement whereby a beam is suspended *across* the ink inlet.

Moreover, by positioning the heater element in the path of the ink flow, greater efficiency of drop ejection and chamber-refilling can be achieved in the present invention. In addition, the areal nozzle density of the printhead can be increased.

The Applicant maintains that there is nothing in the prior art teaching the skilled person to arrange a heater element as specified in the present claims. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present invention is not obvious in view of Manaka, either taken alone or in combination with any of the other cited documents.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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